

allowing the relaxin like factor to contact the receptors for a period of time and under conditions such that the receptors are activated, the relaxin like factor comprising an A chain and a B chain,

said A chain having the amino acid sequence:

Ala-Ala-Ala-Thr-Asn-Pro-Ala-Arg-Tyr-Cys-Cys-Leu-Ser-Gly-Cys-Thr-Gln-Gln-Asp-Leu-Leu-Thr-Leu-Cys-Pro-Tyr (SEQ ID NO:3)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) truncated by up to about 6 amino acids from the N-terminus and/or by up to 6 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said B chain having the amino acid sequence:

Pro-Thr-Pro-Glu-Met-Arg-Glu-Lys-Leu-Cys-Gly-His-His-Phe-Val-Arg-Ala-Leu-Val-Arg-Val-Cys-Gly-Gly-Pro-Arg-Trp-Ser-Thr-Glu-Ala (SEQ ID NO:4)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) truncated by up to 5 amino acids from the N-terminus and/or by up to 5 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said A and B chains linked by disulfide bonds between amino acid residue number 11 of SEQ ID NO:3 amino acid number 10 of SEQ ID NO:4.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is attached to a detectable label.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is chemically synthesized.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is recombinantly produced.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the organism is a sperm.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the organism is a cell.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the cell is in a tissue.